Guidelines for contributing a case study

Research

You may develop the case study in any way you see fit, but you should mimic the length, style, and tone of [existing case studies](#). Please review a couple case studies to get a feel for the format and the approach. Remember that the audience for these case studies is educators seeking to embed ethics within their engineering teaching.

Please see the [current research on good practice in writing case studies](#), which you may find helpful as you develop your case, as well as our article on [creating the perfect recipe for a case study](#).

Overview

The case study should be presented as a narrative about an ethical issue in engineering. This issue should allow educators to address macroethical concerns (large-scale social, cultural, economic, environmental or political concerns) as well as microethical concerns (individual issues such as personal choices, professional practice, relationships, etc.). Additionally, there should be enough emphasis on the engineering part of the case so that technical material could be introduced.

Authenticity

Case studies are most effective when they feel like they are realistic, with characters that you can identify or empathise with, and with situations that do not feel fake or staged. Giving characters names and backgrounds, including emotional responses, and referencing real-life experiences help to increase authenticity.

Complexity of dilemma

Many cases are either overly complicated so that they become overwhelming, or too straightforward so that they can be "solved" quickly. A good strategy is to try to develop multiple dimensions of a case, but not too many that it becomes unwieldy. Additionally, complexity can be added through different parts of the case so that instructors can choose a simpler or more complicated version.

Activities and resources

You should provide a variety of suggestions for discussion points and activities to engage learners, as well as a list of reliable, authoritative open source online resources, to both help educators prepare and to enhance students' learning.

Format

The case study should be structured using the following format:

- Learning and teaching notes: This is an overview of the case and its dilemma, and how it relates to AHEP's themes.
- Learning and teaching resources: You should provide a list of reliable, authoritative open source online resources that relate to the case and its dilemma. These can be from a variety of sources, such as academic institutions, journals, news websites, business, and so on. We suggest a minimum of five sources that help to provide context to the case and its dilemmas. You may want to flag up certain resources as suggested pre-reading for certain parts of the case, if you feel that this will enrich the learning experience.
- Summary: This sets out the case's initial situation and characters.
- Dilemma - Part one: This elaborates on the case and provides the ethical dilemma for the character.
- Questions and activities: This is where you provide suggestions for discussions and activities related to the case and the dilemma.
- Further dilemmas: Some case studies are sufficiently complex at one dilemma, but if the case requires it you can provide further parts (up to a maximum of six).
- Further questions and activities: After each part, you should provide further suggestions for discussions and activities related to the case and the dilemma.
- Assessment: If possible, suggest assessment opportunities for activities within the case, such as marking rubrics or example answers.
- Keywords: On the submission form, you will be prompted to provide keywords as well as to choose from a menu of educational aims, ethical issues, and professional situations highlighted in the case.

Before you submit, review this checklist

- Is there a strong narrative to the case?
- Can the topic be addressed at both a macroethical and microethical scale?
- Are there places where technical topics could be integrated?
- Does the case have authentic characters and situations?
- Is there a clear dilemma in the case?
- Does the case provide enough complexity to challenge users, but not so much that people might avoid engaging with it?
- Are there sufficient activities and resources suggested?

Submitting your case study

We suggest that you review the submission form in advance, as you create your case study, as some of the questions will help to inform your content.

On the submission form you will be prompted to provide keywords, as well as to choose from a menu of educational aims, ethical issues, and professional situations highlighted in the case.

Case studies should be submitted in Word file format (doc or docx).

Submit your case study **here**.